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JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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INTERVIEW AND MEETING SUMMARY

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INTERVIEW WITH DAVID, PAUL (ALIAS)
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INTERVIEW AND MEETING SUMMARY

SSCI 438-12

10246

INTERVIEW WITH: Paul David (alias)

REGARDING: Assassination Inquiry

DATE-TIME-LOCATION: July 25, 1975; 608 Carroll Arms

PRESENT: Messrs. WALLACH and DiGenova

HAS OR SHOULD BE DIGESTED:

FOLLOW UP REQUIRED:

MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY INTERVIEWEE(S):

EXECUTIVE SESSION: X YES __ NO

TOP SECRET

FILE:

This morning, Joe and I met with Paul David ("P.D.") at the Carroll Arms for approximately two hours. George Clarke from the CIA's General Counsel's staff was present for the last fifteen minutes of the interview.

Background:

1948-51 - Assistant to [redacted] - [redacted]
1951-54 - Chief Rumanian Desk
1954-58 - Chief of Operations Against Communist Areas (Eastern Bloc) - (Operations from 15-16 [redacted] - stationed in [redacted]
1958-61 - [redacted] 15-16
1961-62 - Special Assistant to Helms
1962-63 - National War College (June 1962 - July 1963)
1963-64 - Helms' Special Assistant
1965-66 - [redacted] 15-6
1966-69 - [redacted] 12-21
1969-73 - Chief of Operational Services - Chief of Staff in DDP. (Director Clandestine Services)
1973 - Chief Career Management Personnel
1973-74 - Chief Plans & Programs for Directorate

Interview Summary:

Bissell "out of the blue" asked P.D. to read and comment upon Zoogby's Cuban operations paper. P.D. told Bissell that the paper/proposals "stunk" (. . . "much like another Bay of Pigs"). Apparently, Helms also read and liked P.D.'s comments. After Bissell "left", Helms requested that P.D. come on board as his staff assistant.

P.D. stressed that he was not in the operational line of command -- "I provided an interface for intelligence information." A typical day in P.D.'s life:

-- Screening cable traffic (7 - 9 a.m.). Primarily cables relating to positive intelligence, to prepare Helms for his daily 9 a.m. hour-long meeting with DCI McCone.

TOP SECRET

FILE:

-- Prepared a daily briefing for the White House on Cuban intelligence.

-- Preparing review of books such as "The Invisible Government" and damage reports (i.e., reports setting forth what sensitive information exposed by book).

P.D. stressed that he was "out of touch with the day-to-day operations of Task Force W". However, he believes that Harvey kept Helms fully briefed.

Harvey, in P.D.'s own words, was "not an ordinary man", . . . "egocentric", "bombastic", "one of the strongest proponents of compartmentalization and need to know". In addition, Harvey had a law degree and a successful FBI stint prior to joining the Agency.

Harvey had a thyroid problem. As one of the "CIA's most interesting characters", Harvey was often talked about; P.D. has difficulty separating personal experience from rumors. Describing Harvey as a "four martini man at lunch" . . . which, coupled with Harvey's thyroid medicine, caused Harvey to be sleepy, etc., after lunch. In fact, P.D. told us that this was the "last straw" in McCone's eyes; i.e., apparently when McCone called Harvey in to "discuss" the Kennedys' complaints about Harvey's utterings, it was immediately after lunch and Harvey either fell asleep or failed to pay attention. ("McCone did not have an audience.") P.D. added that there was general "bad chemistry" between McCone and Harvey.

P.D. noted Harvey's intense loyalty to "his people" (including Helms and [redacted]). 03 However, P.D. is sure that even with these people, Harvey was likely to have been extremely close-mouthed.